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INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 January 2002]

*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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ENG

1 – As we in the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence believe that all human beings are born free and equal and their dignity should be respected, and also, based on this fact that the prosperity of each society can be realized through the participation and cooperation of men and women of that society, and this can not be achieved unless discrimination against women is eliminated, we are pleased with the positive step taken by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran by taking the necessary measures towards ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with a general reservation. The proposed bill will soon be discussed in Iranian parliament and will be decided by the Guardian Council at the end.

2 – With this fact that men and women have natural differences, we believe that the discrimination against women cannot be tolerated and therefore, ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women can be regarded as a positive step for reforms in the laws regarding women, in a world, where the role of women as the main part of the sustainable development has been ignored. That's a fact too that the women's struggle for the realization of their rights needs encouragement and serious increased support at the national and international levels. That's why the political will of the international community is a necessary requirement for removing the obstacles in the way of elimination of discrimination against women.

3 – We believe that the endeavours for the correction of old customs and clichés of the preset and predefined duties of men and women, without taking into consideration the new conditions, emphasis on the share of women in the provision of welfare for the family and the development of society and creating equal opportunities for scholarship programs are all most important initiatives for the elimination of commonplace cases of discrimination against women in our society. Although by ratifying a convention, the status of women in a country does not change quickly, the best approach should be a basic change in the dominating attitudes of the society toward the women. However, the ratification of this Convention can end in reviewing the existing laws regarding women and a possible change in priorities and policies in the field of women issues may happen, it is hoped that this will create the basis for the improvement of women's conditions in Iran.

4 – As a non-governmental organization and a civil institution, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, being inspired from people's ideals, recognises NGOs' role as the main partners for the purpose of the CEDAW's promotion in the country. The organization sincerely hopes that by ratifying the Convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran will take the necessary measures for reforming certain laws for the purpose of the elimination of discrimination against women.